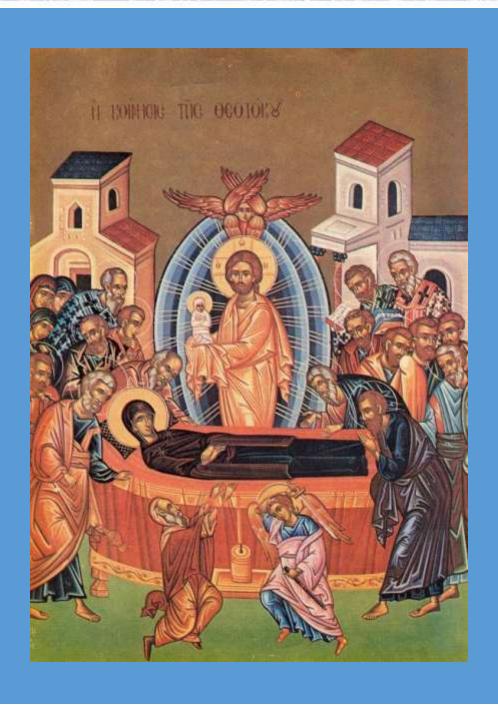


Volume 1, Issue 08

Ouranophantor

August 2018

A Newsletter of St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church



St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church

733 S. Ashland Avenue, Chicago, IL 60607

www.stbasilchicago.org



Telephone: 312-243-3738 Phone: 847-558-9849

Office Fax: 312-243-7961 email: Fr.dimitri.c.tobias@gmail.com

Parish Council President: Jayme Schenk

Worship Hours

Sundays: Orthros 8:15 a.m. followed by Divine Liturgy

Weekdays: Divine Liturgy 8:30 a.m.
Esperinos: For Major Feasts 6:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Paraklesis Service 6:00 p.m.

Upcoming Events

• Sunday, August 19

• St. Basil Panigiri (Parish Festival) —immediately following Divine Liturgy

• Sunday, August 26

• 2018 Sunday School Registration

• Sunday, September 9

Sunday School Begins

• Sunday School Open House — immediately following Divine Liturgy

Tuesday, September 11

• St. Basil Cubs Outing — Wrigley Field at 7:05 pm

We welcome new families to our parish!

Now is the time to reach out to your loved ones who have fallen away for whatever reason and bring them back to church. Now is the time to share your faith with others. Together we must grow. Together we must build the Body of Christ. Invite someone to a service or to a church event. We have one of the friendliest communities in the Archdiocese. Let us go out so that they will know we are Christians by our love.

Follow on Facebook

https://www.facebook.com/St-Basil-Greek-Orthodox-Church-476775679041438/



Sacraments and Blessings

Baptisms:

Chrismations:



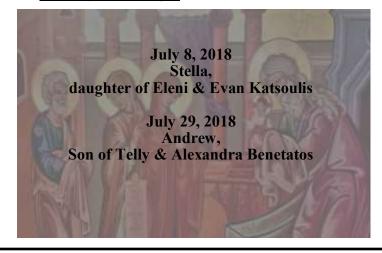
Weddings:

Funerals:





40-Day Blessings:



Father Dimitri's Message



My Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Annual Golf Outing was a great success! Those who came had so much fun, and vowed that not only will they come again next year, but that they will bring their friends. What a wonderful outpouring of love. There is only one problem.... Of the 75 golfers, only a handful were our parishioners. The vast majority were guests and friends of a few of our parishioners. This makes me simultaneously sad and happy. I am sad that more of our own did not come and enjoy the fellowship, but I am happy that we are brining people in to see who we are. Let us not stop there!

I cannot be truly happy until I see total fruition of the mission of St. Basil. I want to see every member of our flock involved in one of our many ministries. Please understand, the reason I want this is not for more feathers in our cap, but for ownership of our parish.

Let me tell you a story. Perhaps you have heard it.

A family moved to a new church and the dad noticed the church had a basketball team. His young son wanted to play on the team, and so the dad asked the coach how much it cost to enroll his child.

The coach said to the dad, "It won't cost you a thing, but I would like you to help me as an assistant coach."

The dad agreed and the two showed up the next Wednesday night for practice. The coach ordered the dad to take the practice balls out of the equipment closet. What the dad found appalled him. The balls were lopsided, their treads worn low. These balls had to be almost a decade old. Suspecting that he must have found the wrong bin of balls, the dad called out and asked the coach, "Coach, where are the balls your team uses?"

"You can't miss them! They're in the bin, just inside the door."

"You cannot be serious, coach."



"Stop messing around and let's get practice started. Get those balls out here."

The dad reluctantly brought out the ratty balls and the kids practiced. They didn't notice the balls were bad. The coach surely knew, so why had he not purchased new balls? After the kids left, the dad cornered the coach and asked him. The simple reply was that they could not afford new equipment. With all of the other budgetary concerns of the parish, new basketballs were simply not a priority.

The next week, the coach came to practice early and found all of the balls had been thrown out and replaced with new ones.

There was even a rack holding them instead of

the bin. He knew who had purchased them and so he asked the dad why he did it.

My beloved brothers and sisters in Christ, do you notice that never once did the coach ask for anything, neither money nor the balls. He only asked the dad to be involved. The man was invested in the team so he *wanted* to purchase the new balls. In the same way, I want us all to be invested in St. Basil. I want you to feel, *I belong to this ministry*. *It is mine and I enjoy it*.

When that happens, it won't feel arduous to give stewardship of time, talents, or treasure. If we prioritize our church and our salvation, then our family life will change as well. Praying at home will come naturally. Fasting will be



embraced for its benefits. And almsgiving will be done because we will see Christ in every person.

To this end, we will have a Ministry Fair on September 9. I am sure you will find something you like, and if you don't then you can suggest one for us to try. We want our Church to be your home and your home to be your little church.

This transformation won't happen overnight, or even in a week as in the story of the basketball team, but it can happen. I ask you to join me. We have come so far as a parish, but we have so much farther to go. I will not be happy. I will not be satisfied until each and every parishioner of St. Basil replaces the saints on our walls. We have a long way to go, but it is a beautiful journey and I am so happy I get to walk it with you as we try to grow closer to one another and to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I remain your servant in Christ, Fr. Dimitri Tobias, *Proistamenos*



St. Basil's Relic



Remember to Venerate St. Basil's Relic and Icon

St. Basil Church has several religious treasures, but one of the most significant is the relic of St. Basil the Great, our patron saint. It is located at the rear of the church in the southwest corner of the nave. The relic, the finger bone of St. Basil, is housed in a beautiful case of glass, gold, and enamel. It rests below an icon of the saint, who is depicted holding our church building, symbolizing St. Basil as our patron. Fr. Chris Kerhoulas, retired pastor of St. Basil parish, acquired the relic from Greece more than 20 years ago. The icon was painted by Tom Clark, our church's main iconographer, and was donated by William Christy, the uncle of Sexton Nick Katsoulis. An inscription on the back of the icon says, "In beloved memory of William Christy."



Fr. Dimitri encourages parishioners to venerate this relic and icon upon entering and leaving the church to receive the blessing of the saint. He notes that many churches have relics of their patron embedded in the holy altar. Our church is fortunate to have St. Basil's relic out for everyone to venerate. As he explained in a recent "Ask Father" message, the proper way to venerate any icon is to kiss the feet of the image or, if the feet are not visible, the hands. One never kisses an icon on the face. May our precious St. Basil continue to intercede for us!

Apolytikion for the Church1st Tone

Your proclamation went forth into all the earth, for it accepted your word, through which you taught the dogmas befitting God, you expounded on the nature of all that is, and you arranged the morals of society. A royal priesthood! Devout father Basil, intercede with Christ our God, to grant us His great mercy.

Απολυτίκιον τοῦ Ναοῦ

Ήχος α'

Είς πᾶσαν τὴν γῆν ἐξῆλθεν ὁ φθόγγος σου, ὡς δεξαμένην τὸν λόγον σου, δι' οὖ θεοπρεπῶς ἐδογμάτισας, τὴν φύσιν τῶν ὄντων ἐτράνωσας, τὰ τῶν ἀνθρώπων ἤθη κατεκόσμησας, Βασίλειον Ἱεράτευμα, Πάτερ Ὅσιε, Χριστὸν τὸν Θεὸν ἰκέτευε, δωρήσασθαι ἡμῖν τὸ μέγα ἔλεος.

Parish Council Update

By Jayme Schenk

To all St. Basil stewards and friends.

I hope you are enjoying our beautiful weather and all that Chicago has to offer this summer.

Last month we held our 7th annual St. Basil golf outing at the Odyssey Country Club in Tinley Park. We had over 70 golfers and over 80 people attend the dinner. It was a great time, beautiful weather, and we raised much money for St. Basil. Thank you to all who attended and organized the event!

I'm sure the month of August will be busy with end-of-summer vacations and back-to-school preparations, but be sure to mark your calendar for September 11. It is our outing to the friendly confines of Wrigley Field to see the Cubs take on division rivals, Milwaukee Brewers. Tickets are \$50, and limited, so please see Vicky in the office to purchase yours today.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of their summer, and hope to see everyone in the pews.

In Christ,

Jayme Schenk, Parish Council President



Philoptochos Update

By Vana Kikos

Hello from the St. Basil Philoptochos!

The biennial Clergy/ Laity/ Conference this year in Boston was held on July 1-5 and was a fantastic experience and a tremendous success. Kathy Walstrom, who is on our Metropolis board, and I, were in attendance. There was so much to learn and to discuss; the meetings were interesting and informative with wonderful speakers and there were many important break-out sessions where many topics were addressed. Please see Kathy or me in person any day after church so we can tell you more! I personally can't wait for 2020

Did you know? The Philoptochos Organization has 25,000 members from 450 churches all over the United States. It is the largest Christian philanthropic women's group in the country. Please come join us—see you after services or let's talk any time!

Faithfully,

Vana, Philoptochos President



Stewardship Update

By Maria-Kanella Koper



The Stewardship Ministry lovingly reminds all stewards that it is not too late to pledge for 2018. You can sign-up at http://www.stbasilchicago.org/our-parish/stewardship/ or pick-up a pamphlet at the pangari.

2018 Snapshot (as of July 22, 2018)

Stewards	Pledged	Collected
142	\$163,890	\$96,180

Goal: 190 Stewards by September 30, 2018

With your help we know we can accomplish our goal to have 190 stewards pledged for 2018.

The Stewardship Ministry wants to hear from you. We will be hosting various focus groups in the next several months. We'd love to learn more about your vision for the future of St. Basil, what you need and want from the church, and anything else that is on your mind. Dates are locations will be finalized and communicated to the parish soon.

We are looking for new members to join the stewardship team who are interested in helping grow the engagement of parishioners and new members at St. Basil. The main focus of the stewardship team is the annual Stewardship month in November and developing new ideas on how to engage members. If you are interested in being part of the team, please contact Maria-Kanella Koper at mariakkoper@gmail.com.

Visit our booth during the Ministry Fair on September 9th. We look forward to meeting with you.

Have you become a steward of St. Basil's? Visit our website at www.stbasilchicago.org and click on "Our Parish" and "Stewardship" to learn more or contact the church office at 312-243-3738 for additional information.

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matt. 6:21)

Girls Ministry Update

By Mary Peroulas

In June, the Girls Ministry partnered with the Sunday School Ministry to host an end of school year/beginning of summer celebration. We enjoyed pizza and other treats and had lots of fun, fellowship, laughter, and smiles. I have been blessed with the privilege of advising this ministry for three years. I have enjoyed planning activities that brought the girls together in a spirit of love and joy, strengthening their relationship with Christ and each other. My hope is the ministry has connected them with their faith and their community and will help them grow into faithful Orthodox Christian adults.

With that said, it is a perfect time to bring in a new advisor with fresh ideas. I am happy to say that Presbytera Mary will take on this role in the fall. am confident that the ministry will continue to grow and flourish under her leadership! It has truly been an honor to interact with your girls through this wonderful ministry. They will always hold a special place in my heart.

May God bless all the girls of St. Basil!

Proverbs 22:6 ~ Train up your child in the way he should go and when he old, he will not depart from it.



Someone You Should Know

George Panagopoulos

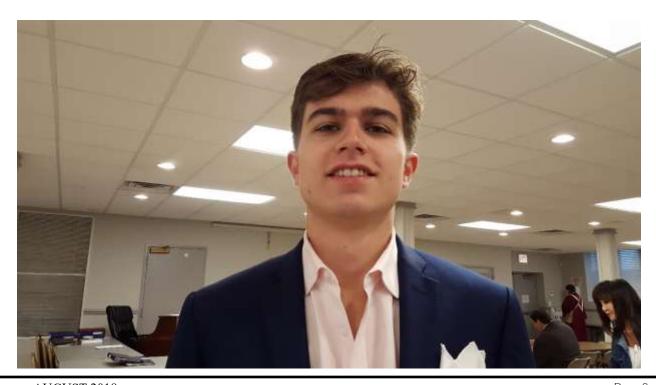
St. Basil Church is blessed to have a young and enthusiastic choir director. In just three years, George Panagopoulos has brought in new choir members and elevated the group to a new level. When they sing, everyone pays attention. Even the babies look around to locate the beautiful sound.

When it comes to music, George embraces both sacred and secular, American and Greek. His tastes range from classic rock groups like AC-DC and Earth Wind and Fire to contemporary Greek artists such as Glykeria, Eleftheria Arvanitaki, and the great Stelios Kazantzidis.

Music has been part of George's life from early on. Born in 1998, he began piano lessons as a very young child and was playing at weddings by the age of 14. He studied Byzantine chanting for five years with Tasos Nasis, Dimitri Burikas, and Father Sotirios Malamis at Ascension of Our Lord in Lincolnshire. Then, inspired by hearing the choir at St. John the Baptist, he later joined his high school choir.

George's parents are American-born Greeks with extended family in Kozani in northern Greece and in Sparta, Corinth, and Megalopoli. He attended Socrates Greek School at Holy Trinity in Chicago and graduated from Prospect High School. He lives at home with his parents in Arlington Heights and is currently attending Harper Community College, planning to transfer next year to Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, where he will major in accounting and minor in music. Besides directing the choir, he has an internship at Midwest Tax Company in Lombard.

Although he's just twenty years old, George enjoys working with the choir, which consists largely of people who are much older than he. Despite the age difference, his musical expertise and his commitment have earned their respect.



St. Tryphon Garden Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis

The St. Tryphon garden ministry is still looking for summer volunteers.

Volunteering involves disposing of any garbage that has blown in to the garden, pulling weeds, and watering (by turning on the spout to soaking hoses that are already in place in the garden, and hand-watering anything that's out of their reach).

We invite parishioners of all ages and gardening experience to serve in the garden – it's fun, rewarding, and no commitment is too small. Please contact Marina Arvanitis (<u>marvanitis@uwalumni.com</u>) to learn more.



Saint John the Almsgiver Ministry

By Marina Arvanitis

On Lazarus Saturday, the new St. John the Almsgiver Ministry packed over 30 "survival packs," which our parish is providing to our neighbors in need. Each pack includes the items listed below.

We have distributed 14 packs to date. Please ask Fr. Dimitri, Nick Katsoulis, and Pat and Steve Cole about the rewarding experiences they've had distributing the packs so far.

If you would like to contribute to these efforts by distributing packs, please see Vicky Crosby in the church office. She will show you where to sign out packs. If you would like to contribute money or items to create more packs, please speak to Vicky Crosby or Marina Arvanitis.

Survival Pack Items
Jewel gift card - \$10
CTA single-transit ticket—\$3
White t-shirt (large)
White tube socks
Toothbrush
Travel-sized toothpaste
Comb
Band-Aids
Hand wipes ('Wet Ones' pocket-size singles)
Granola bars
Bottle of water

Prison Ministry

By Steve and Pat Cole

What We Do and What It Costs: The St. Basil Prison Ministry would not exist without the generosity of our parishioners. Parishioners are most familiar with the Angel Tree Program where we provide gifts in the name of prisoners to their children at Christmas. Each year since 2011, we have been able to increase the number of children from 22 in 10 families in 2011 to 98 children in 43 families in 2017. In the third year of the Angel Tree program we began giving Jewel gift cards to the caregivers of the children so that they can purchase food for a holiday meal. Over the years, the gift cards have averaged \$40 per caregiver. Again, St. Basil families stepped up,

The Prison Ministry also tries to maintain contact with the prisoners throughout the year. We call it ministering by mail. Volunteers send out holiday cards for New Years, Easter, Mother's Day, and Father's Day.

Some prisoners respond to these cards, starting an ongoing correspondence. One prisoner we correspond with first wrote to us in 2014. We also try to support prisoners in small, material ways, primarily by sending books. In a few cases we have pro-

A sampling of books sent to prisoners



vided money to their commissary account for basic needs such as socks and underwear. You might remember one prisoner who sent several hand-made greeting cards to St. Basil, thanking us for helping him. We helped him out once so he could buy art supplies. Now paroled, he is doing well and staying in touch with us. For three prisoners, we have provided some clothing items upon their release.

So what does all this cost, and how do we pay for it?

Activity	Expense	es	How Paid
Angel Tree			
Gifts for children	98 @ \$30 ea.	\$2,940	Parishioner families, Philoptochos Society in-kind purchases
Caregiver Jewel cards	43 @ \$40 ea.	\$1,720	Pancake Breakfast, parishioner donations, Philoptochos Society, outside contributions
Supplies (gift delivery bags)		\$60	Pancake Breakfast, parishioner cash and in-kind donations
Ministry by Mail			
Holiday cards and postage		\$200	Pancake Breakfast, parishioner donations,
Letter writing expenses		\$180	Cole family unreimbursed expenses
Prisoner support			
Books		\$300	Parishioner donations, Cole family unreimbursed expenses
Commissary accounts		\$100	Cole family unreimbursed expenses
Parolee support		\$60	Cole family unreimbursed expenses
Total Expenses		\$5,560	

Sunday School

By Jennifer Georgopoulos

Dear Parents,

I hope everyone is enjoying the summer months. Just a reminder of upcoming important dates for the 2018-2019 school year.

Sunday School registration begins August 26, 2018. Please complete the registration form and we ask for a \$10.00 donation for each child.

Sunday School begins on September 9, 2018. An open-house will also take place on Sunday, September 9, 2018 during coffee hour. Parents will have the opportunity to view the classrooms, meet the team, and ask questions. Please look out for emails regarding registration forms and additional Sunday School information. If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Georgopoulos at jenspalla75@sbcglobal.net.

Thank You,

Jennifer Georgopoulos



Coffee Hour Ministry

The Coffee Hour Ministry at St. Basil allows parishioners the opportunity to host coffee hour twice a month. It's a great way to get involved and promote fellowship at St. Basil while getting to get to know one another better.

We are looking for volunteers to either host a coffee hour or participate in hosting one of our Potluck Luncheons with a team of other parishioners.



If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the church office at 312-243-3738.

Sunday, August 5	Coffee Hour: Melita Green & Claudette Hillock
Sunday, August 12	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos
Sunday, August 19	Coffee Hour: St. Basil Panigiri
Sunday, August 26	Coffee Hour: Philoptochos

Welcoming Ministry

By Melita Green

Welcoming guests to St Basil

Guests are responding positively to our welcoming efforts. One non-Orthodox person said, "I really enjoyed the liturgy and the fellowship during the coffee hour. It's the first time I experienced a congregation that's almost like an extended family."

Recently, I noticed a new face in line to get coffee after liturgy. Introducing myself, I discovered that she was there at the invitation of Pat Cole to discuss her participation in the Prison Ministry. She remarked how beautiful St. Basil is after the remodel. I invited her to sit with choir members because she mentioned that she sings at the Orthodox Church she attends in DeKalb, Illinois. She met several of our choir members and was informed about the upcoming Choir Federation Conference. She left with a big smile and I felt that she had a welcoming experience.

Thanks to all St. Basil parishioners who are reaching out to our guests. If you would like to join this Ministry, please see Melita Green or Fr. Dimitri. We are making a new fall schedule.

St. Basil's Events

(July 2018)

White Sox—Greek Heritage Night









St. Basil's Golf Outing

(July 2018)













St. Basil — 2018 Stewards

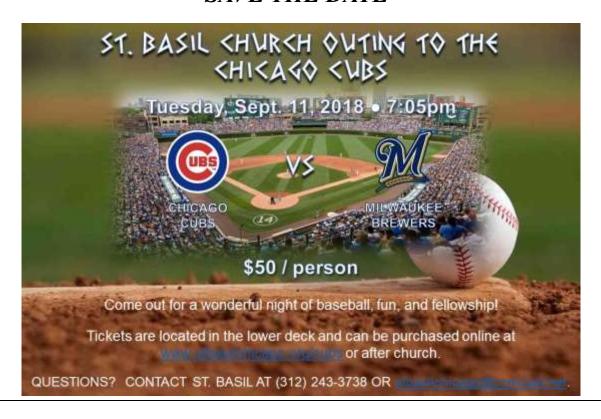
Katina Phillips Chris & Georgia Alemis Sophia Haritos John & Carol Pontikes Lex & Sue Alexander Arthur & Angie Harris Eleni Pontikes George Anagnos Sophia Hausen Joann Prekezes Michael Angelakos Angela Haynes Adam & Anna Pyne William Angelos Melanie Hillock John & Rebecca Antonoglu Willaim & Catherine Hostetler Stella Antonoglu John Regas Dr. Marina Arvanitis Peter Regas Suzanne Regas Gus & Sasha Kalpake Senya Kalpake Robert & Irene Rohrman Stella Kapetan Gregory & Maria Bairaktaris Vivian Rosenberg Theodora Bairaktaris Aris Kapsopoulos Anthony & Christina Rouches Katy Balabanis George & Karen Karas Demetra Rouches Dr. Robert & Dr. Sophia Sarkos-Barnes Demetra Karas Ann Rousakis Tom & Leslie Bezanes Zach Karwandvar Sam & Christine Rousakis Dorothy Bezemes Charles & Jean Katsoulis John & Patoula Billiris Evan & Eleni Katsoulis John & Dr. Christine Bishof Nick Katsoulis Ana Marie Sandoval Peter Katsoulis Andrew Brinkman Irene Santos Cassy Brinkman Tony & Christina Kidonakis Gus & Eleni Sarolas Vana Kikos Jayme Schenk Harriet Kollias Konstantinos & Marisa Schoinas John & Venus Campanelli Ryan & Maria Kanella Koper Harold & Cindy Schroeder **Emily Sedares** John & Eleni Chioros John & Joanne Koudounis Dean Christides Phyllis Koumantos Nicholas Senopoulos Dean Christy Vivien Kouros Panagiota Sianis Constantine & Anastasia Koutsoubas Ernest & Christine Schenk Cochanis Paul & Pamela Sianis Stephan & Patricia Patsis-Cole Frank Kuchuris Tom & Eleni Sianis Maria Constantinides Grigorios & Debra Skourletos Thomas Couston Constantine Spanos John & Anna Lambros Demetrios & Tiffany Stavrianos Arry Lazaridis Brian & Nicole Steinberg John & Debra Dallianis George & Anastasia Stefas Tim & Jenel Damis Kathy Stratton Anesti & Emily Dhima Dina Manasses Matt & Alexis Douglas Eleni Manasses Constantine Drugas Vicky Manasses Gerasim & Edith Tikoff Dean & Anastasia Maragos Alice Ducas Dr. Richard & Angela Tobias Fr. Dimitri & Presvytera Mary Tobias Juanita Marx Harry & Kathy Michas Nick & Kristen Triandafilou George Tsagaris Themis & Angeline Fabiatos Georgia Motter MariaTsagaris John & Nicole Felke Martin & Elaine Fosse Anthony Tsenes Maria Fotopoulos James & Amy Nicholson Sophia Tsilimigras Charles & Rosemary Fountas George & Juliana Tziahanas Nicholas & Vicky Fountas Zach & Kalliopi Fountas Dr. Ben & Karina Onderdonk Tony & Georgia Fragale Jeffrey & Kalliope Osborne Catherine Valsamoulis John Frangias George & Mary Varygiannes Nickoletta Frangias Dee Vergos Themis Frangos James & Bess Pabin Tony & Helene Frankos Demitra Panagopoulos Dimos & Angela Panousakis Kathy Walstrom Rhonda Panousakis Charles & Katherine Webster Nick & Jennifer Georgopoulos Marcie Papadakis Francis & Kanella Willsey George Goltsos Bette Pappas Ken & Helen Paspalas-Rubenstein Christina Gountanis George & Dorothy Zimbrakos Lambros & Mary Peroulas Melita Green

AUGUST 2018 Page 14

Kevin & Kathryn Gulley

							Lincoln Park Com- munity Shelter.
				8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Behead- ing of St. John the Baptist"			Sunday School Registration Greek Festivals 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy 11:30 am Philioptochos mak
	Greek Festivals	31 (30		28		26 Ministry Fair 27
							Angela Panousa- kis & Christina Gountanis Panagiri for St. Basil Greek Festivals 8:15 am Orthros and Divine Liturgy
25 Greek Festivals	Greek Festivals 2	24	23	22	1	0 21	19 Coffee Hour: 20
				8:30 am "Orthros and Divine Liturgy for Dormition of the Virgin Mary"	7:00 pm "Great Vespers for Assumption of Virgin Mary (at Chicago-area par- ishes)"	6:00 pm Paraklesis 7:0 (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary	8:15 am Orthros and Divine 6:00 Liturgy 11:30 am Philoptochos writing notes to Lincoln Park Community Shelter 12:30 pm Teacher meeting
18 Greek Festivals	Greek Festivals 1	. 11	16	15	14		12 13
	(Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary		(Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary	(Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary	(Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary		ine for for tery
11	Daraklasis	10	9 6:00 pm Paraklesis	6:00 pm Paraklesis	Daraklasis	6 70 am "Orthros and Divine 6:00 pm	5 Coffee Hour: 6
4	Paraklesis (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary	6:00 pm 1	2 6:00 pm Paraklesis (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary	6:00 pm Paraklesis 6:00 pm (Supplication Service) to the Virgin Mary			
Saturday	Friday		Thursday	Wednesday	Tuesday	Monday	Sunday
)18	August 2018		St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church	Basil Greek	St. 1	

SAVE THE DATE



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Chicago, IL 60607

733 South Ashland Ave.

St. Basil Greek Orthodox Church